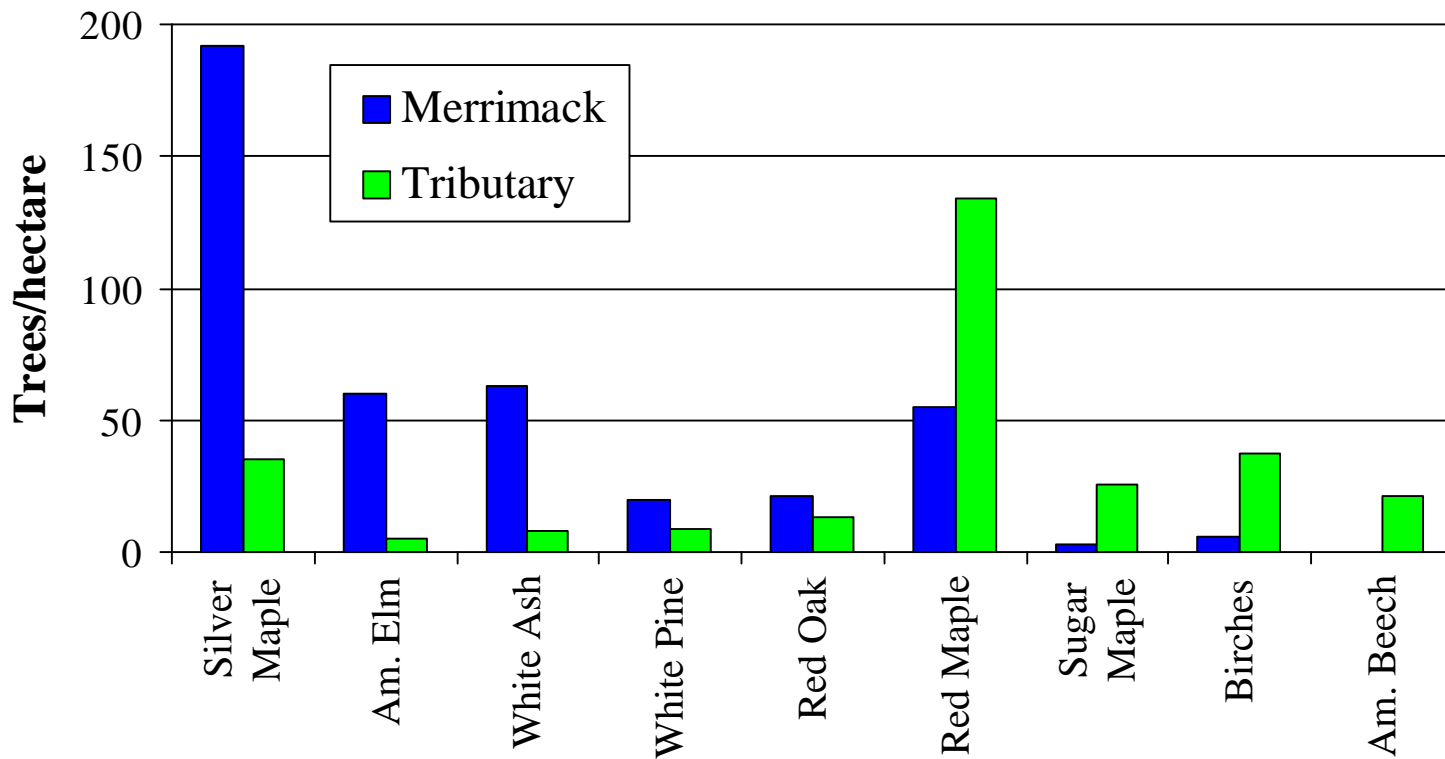


Use of Floodplain Forest Habitats by Breeding and Migrating Birds

**Pam Hunt
Carol Foss
Diane Wells**

**Audubon Society of New Hampshire
October 30, 2001**

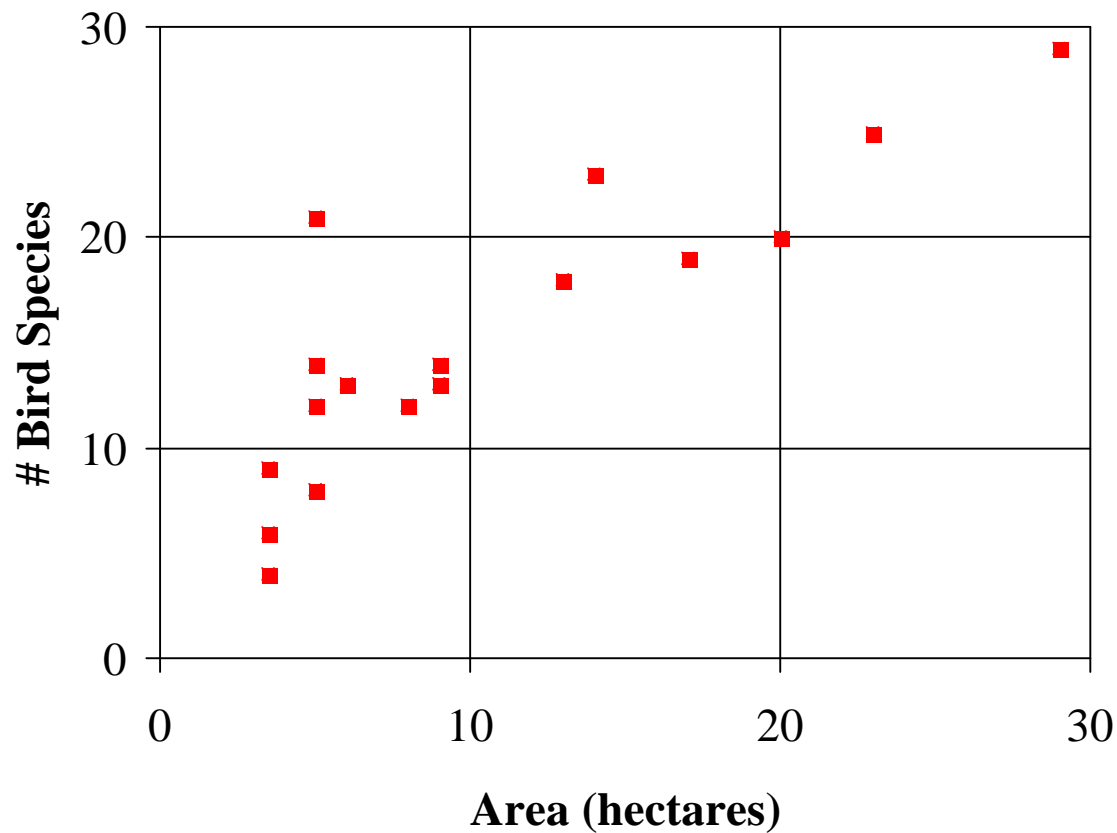
Tree Densities at Sites Along the Merrimack River and its Tributaries



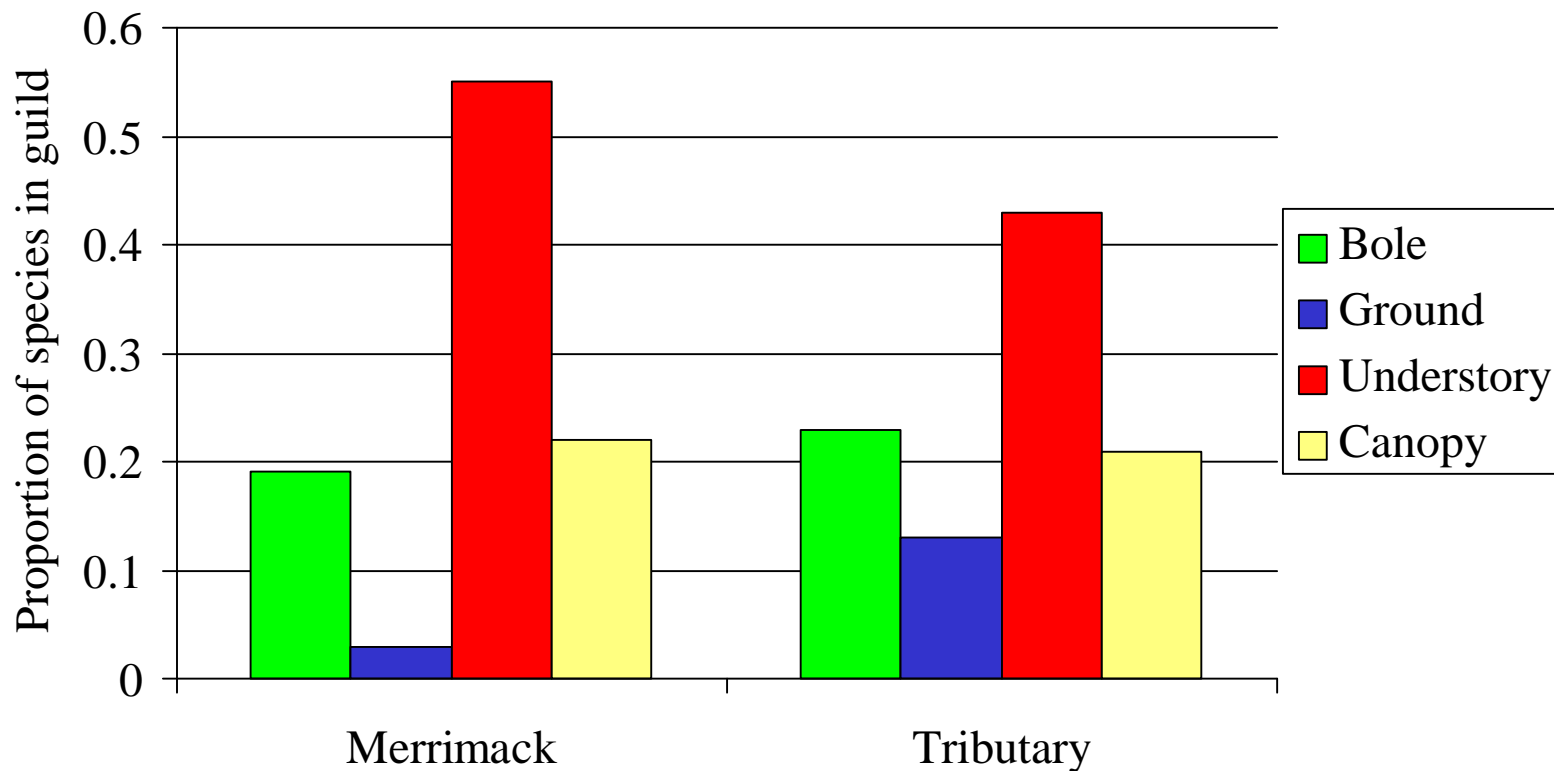
Characteristics of Floodplain Forest Bird Communities

	Merrimack	Tributary	Upland
# of Breeding Species	14.0	17.9	23.3
Territories/ hectare	3.6	3.1	2.4
% Territories Successful	37	37	-
# of Migrant Species	32.7	33.8	-

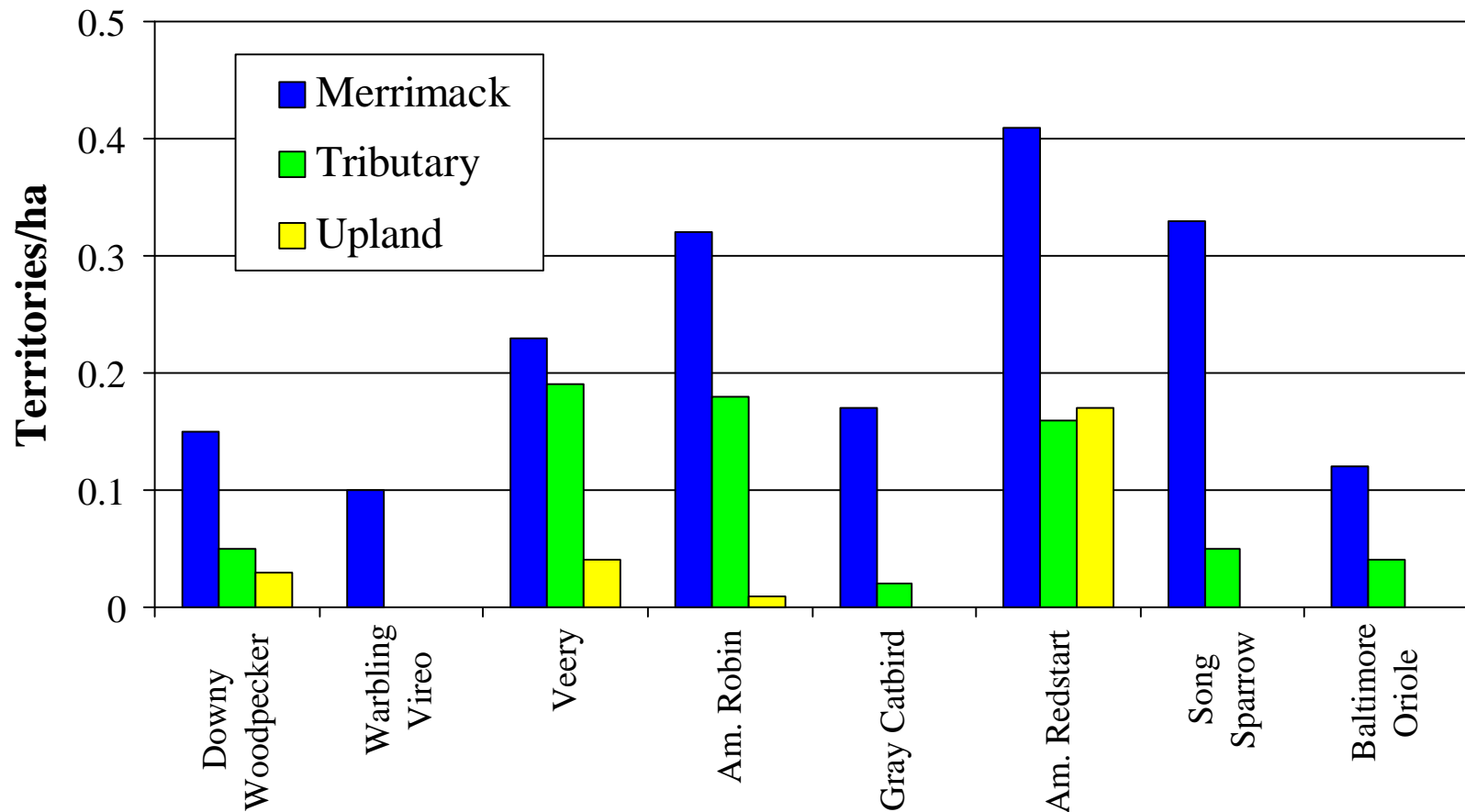
Effect of Site Area on Breeding Bird Species Richness at Floodplain Sites



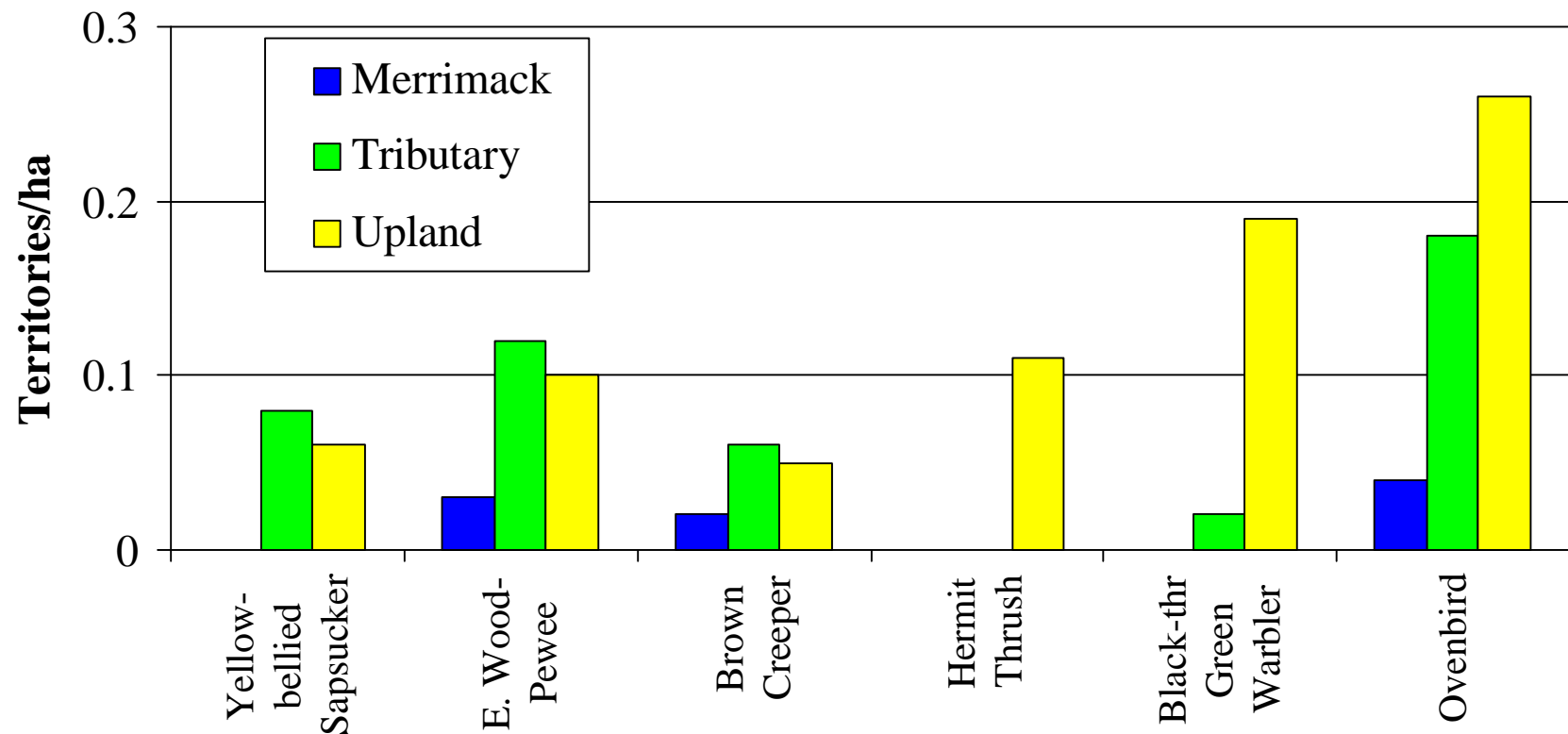
Distribution of Breeding Birds by Nesting Guild in Floodplain Forests



Bird Species Characteristic of Merrimack Floodplain Forests



Bird Species Characteristic of Tributary or Upland Forests



Conclusions:

- Floodplain forest habitats support bird communities that differ from those of upland forests.
- Floodplain forests along larger rivers support different bird communities than those along smaller rivers.
- Small fragments of floodplain forest may support fewer bird species than larger fragments.

Recommendations:

- Protection of upland forest should not be considered appropriate mitigation for loss of floodplain forest.
- Mitigation sites should be located on rivers of similar size.
- Every effort should be made to prevent fragmentation of floodplain forest into fragments less than 15 hectares.